

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An isolated oligonucleotide consisting essentially of a polynucleotide~~
A set of primers comprising oligonucleotides having the nucleotide sequences of as set forth
in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 or and SEQ ID NO: 4.
2. (Currently amended) A method for detecting and differentiating visceral leishmaniasis (VL) and post kala-azar-dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* in a sample, comprising :
 - a) isolating DNA from a sample;
 - b) amplifying a desired region of the DNA isolated in step (a) using ~~oligonucleotide primers consisting essentially of a polynucleotide~~ a set of primers comprising oligonucleotides having the nucleotides sequences of as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 and SEQ ID NO: 4, and heat stable DNA polymerase, to obtain amplified fragments;
 - c) separating the amplified fragments obtained in step (b) to obtain a separation pattern; and
 - d) detecting and differentiating *VL* and *PKDL* causing strains of *Leishmania donovani* by observing differences in the separation pattern of the amplified fragments.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein in step (a) the sample is either a clinical sample or culture sample.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the clinical sample is selected from a group consisting of blood, bone marrow aspirate, bone marrow biopsy, splenic aspirate, splenic biopsy, liver aspirate, liver biopsy, lymph node aspirate, lymph node biopsy, skin scraping, slit biopsy and other tissue materials.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein in step (b) the heat stable DNA polymerase is *Taq polymerase*.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein in step (b) the amplification is done by polymerase chain reaction.
7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (c) the separation is done by gel electrophoresis.
8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in 2 wherein in step (d) the detection is by ethidium bromide or other DNA stains.
9. (Currently amended) A diagnostic kit for detection and differentiation of VL and PKDL causing strains of the *Leishmania donovani*, comprising a set of primers comprising oligonucleotides having nucleotide sequences as set forth in ~~primers consisting essentially of a polynucleotide sequence of~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 3 ~~or~~ and SEQ ID NO: 4, reaction buffer, *Taq polymerase*, a DNA marker, positive and negative control samples and an instruction manual.